



CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 95-1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

There is a need to more actively engage local governments in our efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. The development of nutrient reduction strategies for the Bay's tributaries has brought the Chesapeake Bay Program upstream and into closer association with local governments. We now know that securing the 40 percent reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus by the year 2000 will require local governments to become fully engaged in our efforts. This directive recognizes that the 1,653 local governments located within Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia are now and will become increasingly important partners in many aspects of the Bay restoration effort.

The Role of Local Government

The re-evaluation of the 1989 Local Government Participation Strategy has underscored the need to more clearly define the role of local government in the Chesapeake Bay Program because of the range of program activities that depend on local action and support. Likewise, in 1994, the Strategic Planning Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program recommended fuller local involvement in the subcommittees of the program and a strategy to ensure broader local government participation in all aspects of the Bay clean-up with an understanding that such involvement will bring additional expertise and resources to the restoration effort.

Actions taken by the Chesapeake Bay Program to target protection and restoration activities and effect change address a broad array of issues having significant impact on local governments. These actions have presented local governments with significant opportunities to contribute to our efforts to protect and restore Bay resources.

These actions include:

- The preparation of tributary specific nutrient reduction strategies called for in the 1992 amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement expressed a need for local government participation and/or initiation of programs to support achievement of targeted nutrient reductions. In addition the nutrient cap underscores the need for local government involvement as the primary managers of land use in the watershed.
- The 1994 Chesapeake Bay Basinwide Toxics Reduction and Prevention Strategy which committed to achieve voluntary participation by all state and local governments in the implementation of pollution prevention programs aimed at further reducing the use and generation of potentially toxic chemicals at their facilities by the year 2000.
- The Riparian Forest Buffer Directive of 1994, which recognizes the authority of local governments

to apply or modify existing land use management measures to protect stream-side forests from the adverse impacts of development or other activities, which would diminish the ability of those forests to protect water quality and living resources.

- The population growth and development commitments of the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement which charged the Bay Program to develop a strategy to provide incentives, technical assistance and guidance to local governments to actively encourage them to incorporate protection of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, and fragile natural areas in their land-use planning, water and sewer planning, construction, and other growth-related management processes.
- The preparation of "Population Growth and Development Policies and Guidelines" approved by the Chesapeake Executive Council on January 5, 1989 which identified educational materials, technical assistance and financial support to be provided to encourage local governments to apply these policies and guidelines.

THEREFORE, we, the undersigned now reaffirm the importance of our partnership with local governments within our respective jurisdictions. We commit to work together as a program and in each of our jurisdictions to strengthen the involvement of local governments in the Chesapeake Bay Program. To that end, we hereby endorse the following objectives:

- To establish a stronger working relationship and improve coordination with local governments to broaden the Bay Program's understanding of local perspectives concerning the Chesapeake Bay watershed's protection and restoration as well as tributary nutrient reduction initiatives
- To identify local government needs and those local government technical and programmatic resources that may be available, as well as the technical and financial resources which can be made available, to local governments to encourage their broader participation in Bay protection and restoration efforts.
- To provide additional technical assistance and seek ways to make most effective use of available financial resources and to leverage resources as may be required to improve local governments' capacity to become more broadly engaged in Chesapeake Bay watershed protection and restoration activities.
- To broaden representation of local governments within the Bay Program's existing Committee structure to assure local government ownership and involvement in implementation of protection and restoration policies as developed over time.

TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES, AND FURTHER OUR COMMITMENTS MADE IN THE 1987 CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT, WE WILL:

- **Convene a Task Force to establish a "Local Government Participation Action Plan"**
- Convene a task force by February 1, 1996 to work in cooperation with the Local Government Advisory Committee to establish a "Local Government Participation Action Plan". The task force shall include representatives from the Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee, Local

Government Advisory Committee, local elected officials, local government planning, administrative and public works staff and representatives of existing Bay Program committees as may be appropriate. The composition of the task force shall include representation as follows:

- Five (5) representatives from the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC); one who shall chair the task force and four (4) who shall represent the interests of each of its jurisdiction's delegations.
- Six representatives from the Principals' Staff Committee (one from each signatory to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement) who shall coordinate the activities of the Committee with activities and programming at the state level to broaden local government participation in the Bay Program.
- Six representatives from local governments in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia (2 from each state) who shall represent County, Municipal, and/or Township interests. At least three (3) of the six representatives shall be local elected officials. Up to three (3) may represent associations that provide services to local governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (e.g. MML, VML, VACO, MACO, PSATS, or Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, etc.) or regional agencies that provide technical assistance to local governments in the watershed. These representatives shall be appointed by the governors of each jurisdiction or their designees.
- Two (2) representatives from the local governing sectors of the District of Columbia who shall represent Municipal Wards and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC). At least one (1) of the two shall be a local elected ANC Commissioner. The other may represent the Wards or D. C. City Council. These representatives shall be appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia or his designee.

The Participation Action Plan shall be prepared by October 1, 1996 and shall:

- identify opportunities to target technical and financial assistance to local governments;
- broaden outreach efforts to more directly engage local governments in Chesapeake Bay Watershed protection and restoration efforts;
- identify and recommend changes to Bay Program organizational structure and functions;
- document recommendations for actions to be taken to target technical and financial assistance to local governments, including recommendations to develop new or modified service delivery programs to local governments, either through the Bay Program or through its participating organizations; and
- identify the technical and programmatic resources local governments can offer to support the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Interim milestones will be established to monitor performance of the task force in developing the

Participation Action Plan. Upon submittal of the plan, the work of the task force will be complete.

In order to accomplish its work, the task force will be provided with the following:

- A summary or synthesis of Programs, identified by state signatories and EPA on behalf of federal agencies, that coordinate and/or provide assistance to local governments on issues that relate to the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. This inventory shall be provided to the task force on or before April 1, 1996.
- An inventory of Bay Program Subcommittee on-going and/or previously funded activities that have assisted local government efforts to restore the Bay watershed and any proposed projects that will involve local governments in FY 97. This inventory shall be prepared by the Implementation Committee on or before April 1, 1996.
- An assessment of opportunities to establish mechanisms to fund local restoration projects which are consistent with Bay Program goals and objectives. This assessment shall be conducted by the Implementation Committee and provided to the task force on or before July 1, 1996.
- Information developed by the CBPO staff on the long term economic costs and environmental benefits of incorporating Bay Program goals and objectives into local programs. Such information shall be prepared, with and specifically for use by local governments, in a manner suitable for distribution on or before August 1, 1996.
- An assessment of mechanisms within each state and the District of Columbia which have been established to distribute information to local governments and familiarize individual units of local government with Chesapeake Bay Program resources (informational, managerial, technical assistance and financial) which are available to assist them in undertaking watershed protection and restoration initiatives. Such mechanisms shall include "Circuit Rider" programs, dedicated "Help Lines" or similar tools used within each jurisdiction that local governments may currently rely on for timely information and assistance to support their efforts to undertake Bay related implementation activities. This assessment should also identify mechanisms designed to solicit local governments' views and perspectives concerning the nature and types of assistance they most need. This assessment shall be prepared by the Implementation Committee in conjunction with each state and the District of Columbia on or before March 1, 1996 and shall serve as a basis for task force evaluation of outreach efforts and recommendations for modifying the nature and types of services that can be provided to local governments to stimulate or provide incentives for their broader engagement in watershed protection and restoration activities.

The following actions shall be taken to initiate immediate steps toward achieving the objectives of this directive and to complement the work of the task force.

- **Assure adequate Chesapeake Bay Program staff assistance** is provided by January 1, 1996 to carry out provisions of this Directive. This staffing support shall be provided to assist the LGAC, support the work of the task force charged with preparing the Participation Action Plan, and assist local governments to improve their capacity to become more directly engaged in Bay protection and restoration activities.

- **Increase local government representation and participation** in the Bay Program's existing committee and subcommittee structure.
- As part of the "Bay Indicator Series", **develop a series of Local Government "indicators"** by July 1, 1996 which show the status and progress in restoring resources under the authority of local governments.
- **Prepare a "Handbook for Local Governments"** which identifies a variety of projects and programs which can be undertaken by local governments to support Bay protection and restoration objectives. The handbook shall identify sources of technical and financial assistance available to assist local actions to undertake projects supportive of restoration goals. This handbook shall be prepared by the LGAC by February 1997 with the support of a workgroup representing appropriate subcommittees within the Bay Program.
- **Establish a "Bay Partner Communities" program** to be sponsored as part of the on-going function of the Local Government Advisory Committee to recognize local governments which have demonstrated sustained, multi-dimensional programming efforts and a commitment to improve water quality and protect watershed resources. Program features and criteria to define thresholds for Bay Partner Community designation should encourage self certification by communities. Program criteria shall be prepared by the LGAC, in consultation with the Bay Program signatories, by May 1, 1996 and first recognition of communities shall be completed during the 1996 annual meeting of the Executive Council.
- **Convene a conference** by October 1996 on "Chesapeake Bay Communities: Making The Connection" which draws from the publication of 100 success stories of local governments taking responsible actions to protect the Bay and their local environments. This conference will provide opportunities to showcase local innovations among peers and serve as an opportunity to train others through exchange of ideas and techniques.
- **Identify specific public information documents and other communications tools** of the Bay Program which can be tailored to the specific local governments audience and needs. This activity shall be undertaken by the Communications Subcommittee in cooperation with the standing subcommittees of the Bay Program. This activity shall include a survey of local governments to identify the types of information documents and communications tools which they identify as most useful. These tools and activities shall be incorporated into the workplans of the Communications Subcommittee and other relevant committees. Consideration should also be given to the design of special Bay Program events, press briefings or other opportunities to showcase local contributions.

DATE: November 30, 1995

SIGNERS:

For the Commonwealth of Virginia *George F. Allen, Governor*

For the State of Maryland *Parris N. Glendening, Governor*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania *Thomas J. Ridge, Governor*

For the District of Columbia *Marion Barry, Mayor*

For the United States of America *Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission *Michael H. Weir, Chairman*

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